

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A method for providing a cascade electronic mail distribution process comprising:

creating an electronic mail message having a flag to identify the electronic mail message as a cascade-type electronic mail message; and

forwarding a received cascade-type electronic mail message to recipients in a recipients list.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

creating an electronic mail message having a flag to identify the electronic mail message as a cascade forward-type electronic mail message; and

automatically forwarding a received cascade forward-type electronic mail message to recipients in a forwarded mail log.

A' 3. (Original) A method for providing a cascade electronic mail distribution process comprising:

creating a first electronic mail message, where the first electronic mail message is a cascade-type message;

distributing the first electronic mail message to at least one first recipient;

forwarding the first electronic mail message from the at least one first recipient to at least one second recipient; and

creating a forwarded mail log that identifies the first electronic mail message and the recipients of the first electronic mail message.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3 further comprising:

identifying the at least one second recipient in a recipient table, where the at least one second recipient is cascade enabled.

5. (Original) The method of claim 3 further comprising:

creating a second electronic mail message that is required to be received by all the recipients of the first electronic mail message, where the second electronic mail message is a cascade forward type message;

distributing the second electronic mail message to the at least one first recipient;

accessing the forwarded mail log to identify the at least one second recipient that received the first electronic mail message;

automatically forwarding the second electronic mail message to the identified at least one second recipient.

6. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein said accessing step further comprises:

comparing a list of recipients of the second electronic mail message to said identified at least one second recipient; and

identifying the at least one second recipient that is not in the list of recipients.

7. (Original) The method of claim 3 further comprising:

identifying if a user accepts cascade-type electronic mail and, if not, sending an electronic message to the sender of a cascade-type electronic mail message that identifies the user as not accepting cascade-type electronic mail.

8. (Original) Apparatus for providing cascade electronic mail distribution comprising:

a first terminal for sending a cascade-type electronic mail message through a network;

a second terminal for receiving from the first terminal via the network the cascade-type electronic mail message, updating a forwarded log with an identification of a third terminal, and forwarding the cascade-type electronic mail message to the third terminal.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the forwarded cascade-type electronic mail message comprises an original message from said first terminal and additional message information from said second terminal.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the cascade-type electronic mail message comprises:

a message identification;

a recipients field;

a message type field that identifies a cascade feature of the electronic mail message; and

a message field.

11. (Original) The data structure of claim 10 wherein the message identification comprises a user name and a time-stamp.

12. (Original) The data structure of claim 10 wherein the message type field is a cascade enable field.

13. (Original) The data structure of claim 10 wherein the message type field is a cascade-forward enable field.

14. (Original) The data structure of claim 10 further comprises a previous message field.

15. (Original) Apparatus for processing electronic mail comprising:

a first portion of an electronic mail processor for creating an electronic mail message having a flag to identify the electronic mail message as a cascade-type electronic mail message; and

a second portion of the electronic mail processor for forwarding received cascade-type electronic mail message to recipients in a recipients list.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15 further comprising:
a third portion of the electronic mail processor for creating an electronic mail message having a flag to identify the electronic mail message as a cascade forward-type electronic mail message; and
a fourth portion of the electronic mail processor for automatically forwarding received cascade forward-type electronic mail message to recipients in a forwarded mail log.
17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the cascade forward-type electronic mail message comprises a retraction of a previously sent electronic mail message.
18. (Original) A computer readable medium comprising software that, when executed by a general purpose computer, causes said general purpose computer to perform a method comprising:
creating an electronic mail message having a flag to identify the electronic mail message as a cascade-type electronic mail message; and
forwarding received cascade-type electronic mail message to recipients in a recipients list.
19. (Original) The method of claim 18 further comprising:
creating an electronic mail message having a flag to identify the electronic mail message as a cascade forward-type electronic mail message; and
automatically forwarding received cascade forward-type electronic mail message to recipients in a forwarded mail log.
20. (Original) A computer readable medium comprising a data structure of an electronic mail message comprising:
a message identification;
a recipients field;

a message type field that identifies a cascade feature of the electronic mail message; and
a message field.

21. (Original) The data structure of claim 20 wherein the message identification comprises a user name and a time-stamp.

22. (Original) The data structure of claim 20 wherein the message type field is a cascade enable field.

A1 23. (Original) The data structure of claim 20 wherein the message type field is a cascade-forward enable field.

24. (Original) The data structure of claim 20 further comprises a previous message field.

Please add the following claims:

25. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the received cascade-type electronic mail message is addressed to a recipient and wherein the flag prompts an email program to automatically forward an email message to the recipients if the email message is received by the recipient after forwarding the received cascade-type electronic mail message.

26. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the forwarded mail log is populated with the recipients in the recipients list at the time of forwarding.

27. (New) A method for providing a cascading electronic mail distribution process, comprising:

receiving, from a sender, a first electronic mail message identified as a cascade-type message;

forwarding, in response to a prompt from a user, the first electronic mail message to at least one recipient;

receiving, from the sender, a second electronic mail message identified as a cascade-type message; and

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automatically forwarding the second electronic mail message to the at least one recipient as a result of the first and second electronic mail messages being identified as cascade-type messages from the same sender.
